

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 IO-14 SES-02
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FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1702

USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS JERUSALEM 2503

ICA FOR NEA, PGM/RC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, IS, EG, SY, XF

SUBJ: WEST BANK PRESS REACTION: CAMP DAVID SUMMIT

1. CAMP DAVID COVERAGE LOCAL PRESS SEPT 11 GIVEN PROMINENT ATTENTION BY AL QUDS WHILE PALESTINIAN-SYRIAN TALKS IN DAMASCUS GARNER MAIN HEADLINES IN ASHA'B AND AL FAJR. ALL PAPERS REPORT "SADAT LOSING PATIENCE." AL QUD'S EDITORIAL PREDICTS "SUCCESS" FOR CAMP DAVID, "BUT SHOULD IT FAIL" PRES CARTER IS REQUESTED TO REASSESS AMERICAN RELATIONS WITH THE COUNTRY THAT "LAYS OBSTACLES IN THE PATH OF PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT." AL FAJR CITES A WASHINGTON STAR STORY OF SEPT 9 AS "PROOF" THAT THE US AT CAMP DAVID IS ONLY WORKING FOR "HER INTERESTS AND NEO-COLONIALISM" IN THE AREA. ASHA'B FOCUSES ON THE TALKS IN DAMASCUS WHOSE PRINCIPAL TOPIC, CAMP DAVID, RECEIVES "TOTAL REFUSAL." THE PAPER CALLS FOR A RETURN TO NEGOTIATIONS "SOMEWHERE ELSE."

2. AL QUDS HEADLINES "WARNINGS AGAINST GREAT EXPECTATIONS;
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DIFFERENCES STILL EXIST ON BASIC POINTS; SADAT AND BEGIN BRING NO NEW PROPOSALS; EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT WILL STILL NOT REVERT TO WAR IF CONFERENCE FAILS; HE MIGHT RETURN TO GENEVA." ITS EDITORIAL CONCEDES "CARTER IS DOING HIS BEST TO WIN THE FIRST DIRECT POLITICAL GAMBLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST" BECAUSE "FAILURE WILL LEAD TO DECLINE OF AMERICAN INFLUENCE IN AREA...." "QUIET ATMOSPHERE" AT CAMP DAVID REVEALS "CONCEALED STRIFE"

BETWEEN CARTER AND BEGIN WHO STILL INSISTS ON "HIS STAND REGARDING THE WEST BANK AND GAZA." THE PAPER PREDICTS SADAT'S "STAND AND HIS CLEVERNESS" WILL LEAD TO "SUCCESS" BUT "SHOULD CAMP DAVID FAIL" THE US IS REQUESTED TO "LAY NEW FOUNDATIONS WITH THE COUNTRY THAT LAYS OBSTACLES IN THE PATH OF PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT."

3. AL FAJR BANNERS "LONG MEETINGS" BETWEEN ASSAD AND ARAFAT TO DISCUSS "WHAT IS GOING AT CAMP DAVID." REGARDING CAMP DAVID, THE PAPER REPORTS "SADAT...STARTING TO LOSE PATIENCE; PROGRESS IN ATMOSPHERE ONLY, NOT IN SUBSTANCE." CITING THE WASHINGTON STAR REPORT ON THE GROWTH OF AMERICAN INFLUENCE AND INTERESTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AL FAJR'S EDITORIAL PICTURES SADAT STANDING AT THE "HIGH TIDE" OF ARAB ALLIANCE WITH "RE-ACTIONAIRES", UNAWARE OF THE COMING "EBB." THE WRITER CONCLUDES, IN ITS USUAL RHETORICAL STYLE, THAT THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE IS "UNDOING AMERICAN IMPERIALISM."

4. ASHA'B'S FEATURED STORIES REPORT "PALESTINIAN AND SYRIAN LEADERS REVIEW SITUATION IN ARAB WORLD." "PALESTINIAN SOURCES" IN THE UNITED STATES REPORT "EGYPTIAN DELEGATION HAS NOT FELT ANY PROGRESS AT CAMP DAVID." EGYPTIAN "ROSE EL YUSUF" IS GIVEN AS THE SOURCE OF AN EGYPTIAN POSITION THAT EGYPT AND ISRAEL WILL RESUME NEGOTIATIONS IF A "DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES" IS ISSUED FROM CAMP DAVID. IN ITS COMMENTARY ASHA'B OUTLINES THE TOPICS COVERED BY ASSAD AND ARAFAT SAYING THAT THE MAIN UNCLASSIFIED

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SUBJECT WAS CAMP DAVID. THE SYRIAN STAND, "TOTAL REFUSAL," WAS BASED ON A "FIRM BELIEF THAT THIS CONFERENCE IS NOT QUALIFIED TO REALIZE A JUST AND PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT." THE PAPER OPINES THAT THE "ONLY ALTERNATIVE" IS A RETURN TO "INTERNATIONAL LEGITIMACY--THE UN RESOLUTIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS SOMEWHERE ELSE" IF THE PARTIES "GENUINELY" SEEK A JUST AND LASTING PEACE. NEWLIN

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